

## ***MTSNAC Meets in the California State Capitol — Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian Takes the MTS Message to the State General Assembly***

The Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC), created to advise the U.S. Secretary of Transportation on intermodal transportation issues, met in Sacramento, California, on May 4 to 5, 2005, to continue the work of refining the Department's SEA-21 proposal and turn its attention to the overall problem of freight system expansion.

The two-day meeting chaired by John Gaughan, former Maritime Administrator, directly addressed the issue of the "international supply chain" and the need to increase the nation's annual freight capacity at the rate equivalent to the current annual capacity handled at the Port of Oakland to meet growth projections. The Port of Oakland currently handles 2 million TEU's (20-foot-equivalent units) of freight per year.

Considerable discussion took place on just how this expansion can take place and the role the MTSNAC and the Department of Transportation will play in facilitating system improvements. Chairman Gaughan spoke of the "appropriateness of the place and timing of the meeting in light of the congestion issues facing the ports of southern California."

MTSNAC will meet again in September to prepare final recommendations to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta addressing system-wide congestion issues.



***Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian (second from left) and John Gaughan (right), Chairman of the MTSNAC, receive the Joint Member Resolution Proclamation, honoring MTSNAC on its many accomplishments, from California State Senator Alan Lowenthal (second from right), Chairman of the Senate Transportation Subcommittee on California Ports and Goods Movement. On the left is California State Senator Tom Torlakson, Chairman of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee***

A joint state legislative hearing coincided with the MTSNAC meeting and the California Maritime Transportation Month. The California Legislature has recently focused on the adverse effects of freight congestion on economic growth and steps the state can take to address these issues.

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian testified before the Joint Transportation Subcommittee on California Ports and Goods Movement on the topic of "Freight Congestion and Goods Movement." His testimony centered on the proactive steps the Bush Administration is taking to expand our nation's marine transportation system. He told the members of the subcommittee, "By any planning measurement, the SEA-21 proposal is the most aggressive, far reaching, and coordinated effort to upgrade one segment of our national transportation system in over

50 years... Secretary Mineta is fully committed to this initiative, he actually named it, and is working with the White House to expand the proposal."

The next MTSNAC meeting will take place in Memphis from September 27 to 28, 2005. MTSNAC teams will continue to meet throughout the summer to refine their proposals and prepare for the fall meeting.